April 23 – 29, 2020 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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Vol. 135, No. 17

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THE WAYNE EAGLE
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Members of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools District took advantage of current technology in their search for a new superintendent of schools.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
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Westland officials have issued a warning to the public about the danger to the wastewater and storm water systems in the community during self-isolation.

See page 5.

Closing of Wayne hospital prompts criticism

Beaumont Hospital in Wayne has apparently succumbed to the serious effects of the coronavirus, although administrators deny the rumored death of the facility which stands empty.

The hospital, according to officials, has been closed and all patients either discharged or transferred to another facility. A Beaumont spokesman said last week that some staff members were transferred to other hospitals while others have been laid off.

The hospital issued a formal statement denying the widespread rumors that the hospital has been permanently closed.

Services at both the emergency and obstetrics departments at Beaumont Wayne were terminated March 26 by hospital management and the facility dedicated to the exclusive treatment of COVID-19 patients. Should there be another surge in coronavirus infections, a Beaumont spokesman said, the facility could be reopened for those patients.

The rumors of the permanent closing of the Wayne hospital reached both Rashida Tlaib and Debbie Dingell, members of Congress from the 12th and 13th districts respectively. The Congress members sent a letter to John Fox, president of Beaumont Health, demanding the reopening of the Wayne facility.

Photo by Sean Rhaesa

"We cannot overstate how important Beaumont Wayne Hospital is to the community it serves. In 2018 alone, this hospital received over 61,000 emergency room visits and brought nearly 1,000 new-born babies into the world. Countless lives have been saved by the care provided by Beaumont's talented and dedicated staff," the congress members said in the letter.

They chastised the decision of Beaumont to take the 185 beds at Beaumont Wayne out of service and called the decision "irresponsible" and "a threat to the very health and safety of the community you claim to serve."

"Beaumont Hospital, Wayne is important to Beaumont Health and is not permanently closing. Rumors to that effect are false," the hospital said in a prepared statement.

"We are still operating under several executive orders that severely restrict the extent and type of care we can provide to our community. Until these executive orders are lifted and the disaster declaration has ended, we are not changing the COVID-19 only status of the Wayne hospi-

See **Hospital,** page 6

Stop and go traffic

Repair of I-275 delayed as Cherry Hill Road work begins

While one major road construction project in the area has been delayed as the state seeks additional funding to reconstruct a portion of I-275, work on another Canton Township project began this week.

Construction on Cherry Hill Road in Canton Township was scheduled to begin last Monday. The road will be resurfaced and widened from Canton Center to Haggerty Road, according to a statement from the office of Township Supervisor Pat Williams.

"There could be unexpected delays in the project start date due to the current COVID-19 pandemic," Williams cautioned in a prepared statement.

Construction barrels were scheduled for placement along the side of Cherry Hill on Monday in anticipation of the roadwork.

During the first phase of the project, westbound traffic will be maintained on Cherry Hill Road. Eastbound traffic will be detoured to Beck Road, eastbound Ford Road and then southbound Lotz Road. Once work is completed on the eastbound lanes, the detour route will be reversed to allow eastbound traffic to be maintained. Westbound traffic will be detoured to Lotz Road, westbound on Ford Road and then northbound on Beck Road, he explained.

> *"There could be unexpected delays in the project start date due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.*

All detour routes will be clearly posted with the appropriate signs. Flaggers will be present to direct traffic as needed during construction.

"Please use caution when driving through work zones. Reduced speeds and load restrictions will be posted," Williams noted.

This is a Wayne County project and all questions should be directed to 888-ROAD-CREW. For up-to-date information on all road construction projects taking place in Canton, access Facebook at www.facebook.com/cantonMSD.

As that work begins, Michigan Department of Transportation officials have opted to delay the scheduled $50 million project planned for I-275 between Ford and Six Mile. Officials have reconsidered the project and have determined that the original plan for a mill and refill repair would not be the optimal solution. Officials said in a prepared statement that they are hoping for enough additional funding to reconstruct the roadway rather than make the planned repairs. The project will be delayed for at least a year, according to the state.

Diane Cross, Detroit area spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Transportation, the new plan is not related to or caused by the current coronavirus pandemic. She said that the decision involves the removal of all the roadway material and a rebuilding of the expressway from the ground up rather than the planned milling down of the current surface and refilling it with the same material.

The planned reconstruction

See **Roads,** page 6

Residents urged to complete 2020 Census forms

It's never been more important for everyone living in Michigan to be counted in the U.S. census, according to state officials.

The census impacts everyone from seniors to students, kids and parents and local businesses and neighborhoods. Participating in the census is a civic duty as important as voting in our democracy, they said in a prepared statement.

To help get the word out, the State of Michigan has launched the Be Counted campaign to communicate the importance of completing the census, dispel myths and help ensure every Michigander is counted in the 2020 Census.

The census form is available in several different languages in addition to English, including Spanish. Individuals are not required to be a citizen in order to complete the 2020 Census, and there are no citizenship questions on the census form.

The census takes place every 10 years with the goal of counting everyone living in the United States. Invitations to complete the 2020 Census began arriving in mailboxes across Southeast Michigan last week.

For the first time, the census can be filled out online, as well as by phone or mail, making it more convenient than ever.

Information is 100 percent confidential and by law cannot be shared with anyone.

"Census data is only used to produce demographic statistics and will not be used in a way that will identify you or your household," according to the official census website.

Completing the 2020 Census is critical to the future of the state. There is $3,000 in federal funding at stake for every person who completes the census.

The 2020 Census will ask questions about the number of people living in the household on April 1, 2020, and ask their names, ages, genders, race, dates of birth, relationship status, phone numbers and whether the home is owned or rented.

Participation in the census determines funding for local communities and essential services, including public safety, schools, housing, health care, and senior programs. Michigan receives nearly $30 billion per year in federal funding for these and many other critical programs. Census numbers also help determine how many congressional seats Michigan will have, the website states.

To learn more, visit www.michigan.gov/census2020/.

For home delivery of The Eagle call 734-467-1900.

Inkster - Northville

Township supervisor urges safety during virus

Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix has posted an update regarding the effect of the Governor's Executive Order in the community on the township website.

Nix thanked the residents, business owners, community members and partners who have followed the guidelines and stayed home when possible.

"We are still getting daily calls and messages about groups of people gathering outdoors and businesses still operating when they are non-essential," he said in the post. "Our health care workers and first responders are relying on all of us to help slow the spread of this disease. Medical experts are advising that the virus will peak in the next week. This is the time to be vigilant in spite of the inconvenience and disruption to our daily lives" he added.

> *Our health care workers and first responders are relying on all of us to help slow the spread of this disease.*

Nix noted that as of April 5, Northville Township had 46 reported cases of COVID-19 and three deaths. He urged residents to adhere to the Center for Disease Control recommendation and wear a cloth masks when in public settings like grocery stores.

In addition, Nix encouraged residents to continue using pathways and sidewalks in the community which are open for walking, biking and running.

Updated information is available at twp.northville.mi.us/covid_19.

"Please stay home, Stay safe. Save lives," he concluded.

Schools continue to distribute meals for area students

Food service meals, including breakfast and lunch, will continue for all enrolled and non-enrolled students in the Northville Public Schools through the Michigan Department of Education waiver period, officials said last week.

These meals, served under the Unanticipated School Closure - School Food Service Program (SFSP) are made available at no cost to anyone (18) and under, or up to age (26) if they receive special education services.

The meals are 'grab-and-go' breakfast and lunch, and are distributed from the lobby of Northville High School from 9 a.m. until noon each Tuesday and Friday. At each visit on Tuesday, each student or their parents/guardians will receive meals for three days.

On Fridays, students may take both breakfast and lunch for four days, totalling meals provided for seven days per week. Breakfast meal components may include string cheese, fruit, grains such as a cereal bar, and drink. Lunch meal components may include deli meat sandwiches, vegetarian options such as cheese or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruits, vegetables and milk.

Inkster residents cautioned about road paving delays

Construction on John Daly Street in Inkster will be suspended until the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is lifted, according to city officials.

Construction is currently expected to resume mid-May, if the order ends social distancing is not extended further. John Daly Street will remain closed and the current detour will remain in place, officials said.

Inkster allocated funds for the reconstruction of John Daly Street from Michigan Avenue to the Rouge River for about one third of a mile. The funds were budgeted for the construction of water main, sanitary and storm sewers, curb/gutter, concrete sidewalks including ADA ramps, material quality control testing, and concrete street reconstruction. There will be a few individual residences along John Daly Street that will have the driveways restricted throughout construction. The contractor will work with those particular residents if access to garage is required, a prepared statement from the city noted.

The construction dates for Phase 2 are all weather dependent. The project began in February of this year and was expected to be complete by July 31. Phase 2 includes the area from Michigan Avenue to Inkster Park. John Daly Street will be completely closed from Michigan Avenue to Inkster Park for all reconstruction work. During this phase residents will be able to access Inkster Park from the north and a detour route will be posted.

Trash collection will be unaffected by construction and mail service will not be interrupted.

Photo by Sean Rhaesa

If residents of home on John Daly require access to garages, they are encouraged to contact the Project Engineer to coordinate with the contractor for access, according to a prepared statement from city officials.

Some trees are scheduled to be removed as part of the construction project but will only be removed as necessary and those will not be replaced.

Disturbed lawn areas will be fully restored to preconstruction condition with topsoil, fertilizer, seed, and mulch, officials said. If necessary, the contractor will return in the fall of 2020 to ensure grass growth.

Specific questions regarding road construction should be referred to: Daniel Guastella Project Engineer Benesch (313) 234-0307 dcguastella@benesch.com.

For general questions, contact the project engineer between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

SAY Thank you

Express your appreciation for the extraordinary efforts of police officers, firemen, postal carriers, nurses, doctors, trash collectors, DPW workers, grocery clerks, delivery people and all the others staying on the job to keep you safe during the coronavirus emergency.

We will publish personal Thank You messages next week for only $5.

Thank them all or show your appreciation for a special effort.

Send your message to ads@journalgroup.com and pay by phone at (734) 467-1900.

Ads are limited to 25 words.

Please stay safe during this trying time.

We are all in this together and can only be safe if we help one another.

We will see you soon when we are all strong and healthy

The EG. NICK'S Family

RESTAURANT · TAVERN

ROMULUS - SUMPTER

Romulus continues coronavirus safety measures

Romulus officials have issued an update regarding city services and preventative measures that will continue until the Stay Home Stay Safe order is lifted.

"City officials have worked around the clock to ensure we are doing all we can to slow the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to provide tremendous customer service to our residents," Mayor LeRoy Burcroff said. "The health and wellness of our residents is our number one priority, and we remain committed to providing the resources needed during this critical time."

> *The health and wellness of our residents is our number one priority, and we remain committed to providing the resources needed during this critical time.*

Updates on city services include:

"Stay Home," Stay Safe"-due to the expanded Governor's Executive Order, all city buildings are closed to the public, except the police department. Residents are encouraged to visit the city website with questions. If additional assistance is needed, residents can call any one of the city departments.

Spring Clean-Up update-curbside yard waste and bulk pick-up will be put on hold until further notice. Questions can be answered by calling Waste Management, Inc at 866-979-9018 or Romulus DPW at (734) 942-7579.

Water access-the city water billing department discontinued account shut offs, and will do so until further notice to ensure residents have access to water services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents without water who want service reconnected can contact (734) 942-7650 during regular business hours. Customers are still expected to pay for water used during this time.

Previous actions taken by city official have included assessing risks and changes in operation based on the growing pandemic; the cancelation of public events and group classes; the closure of the Romulus Public Library, Romulus Athletic Center and Senior Center; participation by city officials in planning discussions with state and local officials, school district and ministerial alliance; planning and implementation of Emergency Declaration and National Incident Management System; development of a Unified Command Structure; utilization of telecommunication for city council meetings; and implementation of policies to safeguard employees.

"During this trying time, we are immensely grateful for our essential workers-police and fire, emergency medical professionals, grocery store and pharmacy employees, mail carriers, truck drivers and airport staff," said Burcroff.

"I know I speak for the entire community when I say we are keeping these workers, their health and the health of their family and loved ones in our thoughts and prayers. My heart goes out to those who have been impacted by the virus, as well as their friends and families.

"We are Romulus strong, and we will get through this is together. We will continue to do all we can to support the health and safety of all of our residents."

To support local small businesses, the city has compiled a list of restaurants still open for carry-out.

Mayor LeRoy Burcroff

For further updates on city actions during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit romulusgov.com/coronavirus or visit the city Facebook page.

Police seeking information in mobile home shooting

Sumpter Township Police are continuing the investigation into a shooting which occurred April 1 in the Rawsonville Woods mobile home community.

According to police accounts of the incident, officers were called to the area of Rustic Lane North near Rustic Lane West at about 9:20 p.m. in response to a report of shots being fired.

> *Reports indicated that a female victim had been shot through the outer wall of her residence as she sat in the front bedroom of the mobile home.*

Reports indicated that a female victim had been shot through the outer wall of her residence as she sat in the front bedroom of the mobile home. She was transported by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment of two non-life threatening gunshot wounds. Police officers determined that multiple rounds of ammunition had been fired, striking two neighboring homes along with two vehicles parked on the street. Bullets penetrated the outer walls and entered both homes which were occupied, reports stated. No other injuries were reported by occupants of other mobile homes, police said.

Police are asking anyone with any information or who may have noticed any suspicious activity in the area to contact them at (734) 461-6898. Officers said they are following up on several leads, but ask anyone in the area with exterior video security cameras to review the tapes from around the time and report any suspicious vehicles or individuals.

"As always, the partnership between Sumpter Township Police Department and our residents is vitally important in keeping Sumpter Township a safe place to live. If you see something, say something," police officials said.

Candidates submit petitions

Voters in Sumpter Township will choose from three candidates seeking to be township clerk on the upcoming August 4 ballot.

In addition to incumbent clerk Esther Hurst, Sherry Olds and Lesa Foster each submitted affidavits of candidacy by noon, April 13.

Four incumbent trustees also file affidavits declaring their candidacy for re-election, including Matt Oddy, Don LaPorte, Don Swinson and Tim Rush.

On Monday, additional petitions had been filed for trustee seats by Sheena Barnes, Ken Myers, and Peggy Morgan.

Filing for the office of treasurer were James Clark and Vincent Warren.

Supervisor John W. Morgan also filed his petition for reelection early this month and will be challenged by Nelson Po and Antoine Jordan.

Terms for all offices in the township are four years.

INVITATION TO BID
CITY OF ROMULUS
ITB 19/20-25 - PROJECT #0155-19-0160 2020 SANITARY SEWER REPAIRS

The City of Romulus is requesting sealed bids for the **2020 SANITARY SEWER REPAIRS**. The work includes trenchless repair of the City's existing identified distressed sanitary sewers.

No pre-bid meeting is required for this meeting.

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the City of Romulus Clerk until 2:00 PM local time, on May 5, 2020. In the event City Offices are closed, and you are unable to mail your bid submittal, submittals may be placed in the Election Drop Box located in the front of City Hall. All bids should be clearly addressed:

ITB 19/20-25 - PROJECT #0155-19-0160 2020 SANITARY SEWER REPAIRS
City of Romulus Clerk's Office
11111 Wayne Road
Romulus, MI 48174

Companies can view or download copies of the plans and bid documents from the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct (https://www.bidnetdirect.com/initn).

Bid security in the form of a Certified or Cashier's Check or bid bond for a sum no less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the Bid will be required with each Bid.

The City of Romulus reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or waive irregularities in Bids. No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receipt of the Bids. A contract may ultimately be awarded to the lowest most responsive and responsible company, as determined in the sole discretion of the City of Romulus or otherwise in a manner deemed by the City to be in its own best interest.

Neither the submission of nor acceptance of any bid shall constitute a contract between any bidder and the City of Romulus. No such contract shall exist without first being approved by a formal action of the members of the Romulus City Council and only after all required bonds and proof of insurances and copies of endorsements have been received by the City and the agreement is signed by authorized representatives of the City of Romulus and the successful Bidder.

All questions regarding the project or the ITB documents should be directed only to Robert Maynes of OHM at 734-466-4543 or via email at robert.maynes@ohm-advisors.com.

The City of Romulus strictly prohibits the reproduction or publishing of any published document or solicitation without the express written consent of the City of Romulus. Unauthorized posting of any notice of these documents or reference to said documents or solicitations is strictly prohibited.

Publish: 04/23/2020

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 23, 2020
Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Councilwoman Tina Talley.
Pledge of Allegiance
The City Attorney explained the Governor's Executive Order 2020-15, which allows for members of a collective body to participate telephonically in a public meeting rather than being present during the Corona Virus period. They must be on a phone line where members can hear and be heard. Members participating telephonically count as being present. A quorum can be established and they get to vote on all resolutions.
Roll Call
Present: **Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, Eva Webb, Virginia Williams**
Electronically Present: **Kathy Abdo, John Barden**
Absent Excused: **William Wadsworth**
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Leroy Burcroff, Mayor
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
Steve Hitchcock, City Attorney
Mayor Pro Tem, John Barden, relinquished the Chair to Councilwoman Talley.

1. **Agenda**
   A. Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Eva Webb** for Approval of the Agenda. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
2. **Minutes**
   A. **Res. #20-093** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Virginia Williams** for Approval of the minutes from the Regular Council meeting held on March 9, 2020. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
3. **Petitioner – None**
4. **Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem**
   Councilwoman Talley read a letter from Mayor Pro Tem, John Barden, and thanked the Mayor and the Administration for the proactive actions taken in response to the Corona Virus crisis. Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to approve the Chairperson's Report **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
5. **Mayor's Report – LeRoy D. Burcroff, Mayor**
   The Mayor invited Director Kevin Krause to give an update and report on the City's Emergency Action Plan in response to COVID-19 and the Governor's Executive Orders. Director Krause also explained the role of the NIMS System and gave an update on Fire Department operations. · Chief of Police, Robert Pfannes gave an update on the Romulus Police Department operations. · City Attorney, Steve Hitchcock gave an update on 34th District Court operations as directed by an order issued from the Michigan Supreme Court. · Mayor Burcroff asked if everyone would put aside their differences and work together and rally around our residents and community. · Mayor Burcroff asked if council would suspend the April 6th Study Session and Regular Council Meetings in compliance with the Governor's Executive orders.
   Res. #20-094 Moved by **Eva Webb**, seconded by **Virginia Williams** to Suspend the April 6, 2020 Study Session and Regular Council Meeting. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
   Mayor Burcroff announced that Waste Management will continue its trash pick-up services and Yard Waste services will begin sometime in April.
   A. **Res. #20-095** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Virginia Williams** to approve the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a Resolution for the City to continue the State of Emergency for the City of Romulus until Midnight, April 27, 2020 unless earlier terminated or elected by subsequent resolution. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
   B. **Res. #20-096** Moved by **Eva Webb**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to approve the Mayor and Clerk to enter intoa Resolution for the City to recognize the Romulus Public Safety Foundation as "Not For Profit Charitable Foundation" that exist to support our Police and Fire Departments. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
   C. **Res. #20-097** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to approve and award Bid ITB 19/20-16, Merriman Place Water Main to the most responsive and responsible bidder and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a contract for the replacement of the 650 feet and 8-inch water main on Merriman Place with Blue Ribbon Contracting in the amount of $204,030.00 along with a 10% contingency to cover any unforeseen construction issues that may arise. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
   D. **Res. #20-098** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded by **Eva Webb** to approve and award Bid ITB 19/20-26 to the lowest responsible, and responsive bidder, Green Meadow Lawnscape, Inc. for a three-year period ending March 2023 for the mowing and trimming of the Romulus Memorial Cemetery and Downtown alley maintenance and cutting for City of Romulus, City Clerk and DPW. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
   E. **Res. #20-099** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded by **Virginia Williams** to approve Introduction of Budget Amendment 19/20-17 to cover cost of City code required repairs/rehap of Firehouse, 35255 Goddard. **Motion Carried Unanimous.**

Fund/Dept ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General				
Fund Balance				
101-000-390.000	Fund Balance	5,965,710.00	(72,000.00)	5,893,710.00
Expense				
101-265-970.000	Capital Outlay	81,450.00	72,000.00	153,450.00

6. **Clerk's Report – Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk**
   A. **Res. #20-100** Moved by **Eva Webb**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to approve the 2nd Reading; Final Adoption -PFG Romulus/Vistar Conditional Rezoning and Development Agreement, (Zoning Map Amendment), and Special Land Use.
   Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Webb
   Nays - Williams
   Motion Carried
   B. **Res. #20-101** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to approve the Motion to Amend Romulus Cemetery Rules & Regulations. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
7. **Treasurer's Report – Stacy Paige, Treasurer**
   FYI - Quarterly Investment Report ended 12/31/19. – No action required from council.
8. **Public Comment** - there were no requests to speak from the public audience or any written requests submitted. Councilwoman Williams read into the record a letter from a resident.
9. **Unfinished Business**
10. **New Business**
    Mayor Burcroff acknowledged and thanked OHM for their assistance with the teleconferencing technology for the council meeting.
11. **Warrant**
    A. **Res. #20-102** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded by **Eva Webb** for Approval of Warrant #20-6 for checks presented in the amount of $2,399,470.30. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
    B. **Res. #20-103** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded by **Virginia Williams** for Approval of Warrant #20-6B for checks presented in the amount of $15,738.95. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
12. **Communication**
    Councilwoman Roscoe extended her gratitude to the DPW Workers, Fire and Police Departments and the Administration for all of their hard work in putting the residents first and keeping our community safe. · Councilwoman Webb acknowledged and thanked Technology Services, Fire and Police Departments for their hard work, and acknowledged Mayor Burcroff for his leadership; and the Elected Officials. · Councilwoman Williams acknowledged and thanked Mayor Burcroff. · The City Clerk acknowledged and thanked OHM for their assistance with the teleconferencing. The Clerk acknowledged and thanked Technology Services, Mayor Burcroff, the Administration, Election workers, and Clerk's office staff for their assistance and support during the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary Election. · Councilwoman Talley commented on the 2020 Census and reminded everyone to complete their survey.
13. **Adjournment**
    A. Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded by **Eva Webb** for Adjournment of the meeting at 8:35 p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on March 23, 2020.
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Plymouth - Canton

Township deems landscapers as 'essential'

Landscaping services in Plymouth Township are now an "essential service" and will no longer be subject to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Stay Home Stay Safe executive order.

Professional landscaping has been one of the hotly contested businesses in the debate regarding essential services during the stay-at-home order in the state.

Last week, Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise weighed in on the issue and weeded out any doubt about the township position on landscaping services.

"As supervisor of the Charter Township of Plymouth, I am hereby deeming certain professional landscaping services as essential functions of our township government for the following reasons and conditions, and therefore not subject to police enforcement under the various orders of the governor," Heise said, in a prepared statement.

Reasons cited included: "The township maintains a Grass & Weed Ordinance that is currently in effect and is binding on all homes and businesses within the township. Failure to abide by this ordinance carries with it financial and administrative penalties; The township has a public health and safety interest in maintaining clean and well-kept properties, free of vermin, insects, mosquitoes and debris. This also lessens the health burden on residents with seasonal allergies, asthma and similar conditions and the township has a public health and safety interest in seeing that senior citizens and other vulnerable adults with health or physical limitations can maintain their properties without exposing themselves to physical harm or health risks."

> *The Plymouth Township decision applies only to grass and weed maintenance and cutting.*

Northville Township Supervisor Bob Nix said he is taking a "wait and see" approach to the issue, which he acknowledged is a "hot potato."

"We hope to get some relief by next week, he said. "I think there's going to be relief-we're going to wait the next 7 to 10 days to see what happens," he said. Nix said that Heise "took one approach," to the professional landscaping issue and acknowledged that all the surrounding communities are facing this same issue.

"We've spent so much time on this--we've been in touch with the Michigan Townships Association, (MTA), the Michigan Municipal League, (MML) and we're hoping for some relief soon,"

Nix agreed that there have been strong reactions on both sides of the issue and said "a lot of folks have reached out."

The Plymouth Township decision applies only to grass and weed maintenance and cutting, which includes lawn mowing, edging, applying fertilizer and servicing trees and bushes. Irrigation system seasonal start-ups and required maintenance are also included.

Nonessential landscaping services, such as mulch application, brick paving, water features/fountains or other primarily decorative outdoor services are not covered by the decision.

Canton Yazaki company lays off 723 employees

Employees at a Canton Township automotive component maker received an unwelcome email from a corporate attorney April 10.

The email, from Michael Dersken, the director and lead counsel for litigation for Yazaki North America, notified 723 employees at three Haggerty Road locations that they had been laid off, citing the coronavirus pandemic as the reason for the work interruption.

According to a company statement, 622 employees were laid off at the Yazaki company headquarters on Haggerty Road and another 101 workers at other Canton locations.

"The company is taking this action due to the sudden, unanticipated and unprecedented negative impact on our business arising out of the coronavirus outbreak, and the resulting government restrictions on operation of businesses, including ours and those of our customers," the email to employees read.

Dersken told employees that the company expects for the layoffs to be temporary, but could last more than six months.

He acknowledged, too, that some terminations might become necessary. That action will be determined by the operational impacts of the pandemic, associated governmental restrictions and consumer demand, he told employees in a prepared statement.

Residents warned of 'band' scam

Several teens have struck a sour note with police in the area as they have solicited donations for a non-existent band trip.

According to police reports, a group of teens has been approaching people in parking lots and inside stores in the Plymouth and Canton areas asking for donations for a fake trip with the band.

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools music boosters group issued a letter to residents late Friday warning of the impostors.

The letter said the impostors had been approaching people inside Meijer, Busch's and Kroger in Canton, as well as Kroger in Plymouth, claiming they were members of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Marching Band and asking for donations for a fake trip to the Virgin Islands.

"These students are not a part of the P-CEP bands and this trip, or any current fundraising for a potential trip, are not happening within the band program at this time," the letter said.

Anyone who has been approached by the young men is asked to contact the Canton Township, Plymouth Township or City of Plymouth police departments.

Notice of Public Hearing
Charter Township of Canton
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
Program Year (PY) 2019 Action Plan amendment

The Charter Township of Canton is amending its **Annual Action Plan** for **Program Year (PY) 2019 from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020** for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds at **$336,372 increased to $551,572** due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act **(CARES Act)** Funding of $215,200.

The Finance Department encourages all parties to participate at a VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING on **Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. on the township website at www.canton-mi.org.** Otherwise all communications should be addressed in writing to the Financial Analyst, Canton Township- Finance Department, Mike Sheppard, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan, 48188.

Canton will provide technical assistance to citizens and groups representative of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in developing funding request proposals and in the review of program activities and program performance. In addition, Canton will make adequate provisions to assist non-English speaking residents in interpreting program opportunities and provisions on a case-by-case basis, as well as provide auxiliary aides and services for individuals with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations must contact Mike Sheppard at **(734) 394-5225**, e-mail mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org or in writing to the Finance Department, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton MI 48188 **ATTN: Annual Action Plan amendment Hearing.** Requests for special accommodations must be made with reasonable advance notice.

Mike Sheppard
Financial Analyst
Finance Department

Publish: April 23, 2020

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM YEAR 2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The above named document for the Canton Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is available for inspection on the Canton Township website at https://www.canton-mi.org/ Comments on the **2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT** will be accepted for 5 days, beginning April 29, 2020. Comments received during the public comment period will be forwarded to the Department of HUD and will become an addendum to the reports.

Publish: April 23, 2020 Michael Siegrist, Clerk

SYNOPSIS
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2020
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Nix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Robert R. Nix II, Supervisor; Marjorie F. Banner, Clerk; Fred Shadko, Treasurer; Scott Frush, Trustee; Symantha Heath, Trustee; Mindy Herrmann, Trustee; Christopher Roosen, Trustee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

1. **Agendas:**
   A. **Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda Items** - Approved
2. **Brief Public Comments:** Two residents had questions or comments for the Board of Trustees.
3. **New Business:**
   A. **August Ballot Language Approval** - Approved
   B. **IGA - Wayne County Park Millage Funds** - Approved
   C. **Fire Department COT grant** - Approved
4. **Board Communication & Reports:**
   A. Robert R. Nix, II
5. **Any other business for the Board of Trustees:** None
6. **ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

A draft of the minutes will be available on April 28, 2020.

Respectfully submitted:
Robert R. Nix II, Supervisor
Marjorie F. Banner, Clerk

LETTERS

County treasurer shows support for Michigan Governor

Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree believes that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has made the best possible decisions to keep area residents safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

In a prepared statement, Sabree said, " By issuing strict Executive Orders, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer has been aggressive and persistent in order to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

"The State of Michigan has seen a constant rise in the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths. Over the past two weeks, Michigan has had the third or fourth highest number of COVID -19 cases in the nation. The greatest impact of COVID-19 in Michigan is in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties," the county treasurer said.

"The Governor's recent order (Executive Order No. 2020-42) was enacted to further protect the health and safety of all Michigan residents. People are instructed to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. Most residents have complied with the previous stay at home order, while some have been slow to take the coronavirus threat seriously. People are still becoming sick because of interaction with others, and they are putting first responders, health care workers, and the rest of us at risk. The latest Executive Order is temporary and how temporary depends on our level of cooperation," he continued..

"Over one thousand health care providers at the Henry Ford Health System have tested positive for COVID-19. This virus has put a strain on our health care system like never before. Our first responders are putting their lives on the line to save others. They deserve our respect and support. The least we can do is protect ourselves and those with whom we come in contact from becoming victims. To do otherwise is to be completely selfish. We all want things to get back to normal. We want to return to work, see a Tigers game, attend religious services, visit with family and friends, play golf, or take a trip to one of Michigan's many tourist attractions.

"We'll be able to do all these things again, but we must be careful," Sabree cautioned.

"The decision to end the state's 'stay home' order should be based on several factors. One of them is the availability and implementation of widespread COVID-19 testing. We should know who is positive. We have learned that many who are asymptomatic (show no signs of being infected) could still test positive and thus could spread the virus to others. We also need to know who has truly recovered from the coronavirus and if they have the antibodies that can help others.

"The data has to indicate that the new COVID-19 cases and deaths are continuing to decline. This will give some real relief to our health care workers and protect our communities from a second wave of COVID-19 cases. This will allow the residents of this great state to feel confident that they can return to some form of normalcy. There must be a plan that involves the state and local governments and the private sector to gradually open the economy. It will take time for everything to become fully operational. This is nothing new as we have heard this information from several credible sources over the last month," he added.

"Governor Whitmer has had to make difficult and timely decisions. Since there was such a slow initial response from the Federal government, Michigan needed strong and decisive action, and that's what we received. In the heat of the battle, and we are in a battle, mistakes are made. If the Governor errs at all, she errs on the side of caution. Lives are literally at stake here. We seek assistance through prayer and patience but we have to do our part. Social distancing is working.

"If we do this right the first time, we won't have to go back and do it again. Governor Whitmer is right by issuing Executive Order No. 2020-42.

"Stay Home and Stay Safe," he concluded.

Eric Sabree,
Wayne County Treasurer

Wayne - Westland

Search for district superintendent goes digital

Members of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools District took advantage of current technology in their search for a new superintendent of schools.

The board members were expected to engage in a virtual meeting to interview the final two candidates for the top job on Tuesday evening.

The two candidates for the job are Keith McDonald, Ed.S., the director of human resources for the Livonia Public Schools and John Dignan, Ed.S., currently the director of post secondary options and community partnerships in the Southfield Public Schools District. Each will be interviewed by the members of the board during the virtual meeting using the Zoom platform.

There was no public participation in the virtual meeting but residents were allowed to send questions for the candidates to an email address. The results of the interviews were not available at press time.

The next meeting of the board members is set for 7 p.m. May 4 when the board members are expected to make the final choice and name a new superintendent of schools.

The new district leader is expected to begin work in the district in July.

Login information for the special meetings is available at wwesd.net under the Superintendent Search graphic. Each meeting has a special log-in code available on the website.

Westland reminds residents of rules about open burning

The latest extension of the governor's Stay Home Stay Safe executive order along with warmer spring weather has prompted Westland police and fire officials to remind residents to adhere to the city ordinances restricting open burning.

Officials said that "open burning" is defined as the burning of unwanted materials such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass, and other debris where smoke and other emissions are released directly into the air. During open burning, air pollutants do not pass through a chimney or stack and/or combustion of solid waste is not adequately controlled, posing a safety threat.

Officials said it is a serious health problem and that while adhering to the stay at home order, residents looking for ways to stay busy have begun spring cleaning during the warmer weather, leading to open burning of debris and trash.

"As a police department, we understand how difficult this Stay at Home order can be at times. It is natural for us all to begin to feel restless in our routine. This is especially true as the weather becomes warmer. This is a good opportunity to review the City of Westland Open Burn ordinance," commented Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik.

The Westland City Ordinance prohibits any "open burning" that is not in an enclosed fire pit. The fire pit should be no larger than 3-feet-wide by 3-feet-tall and it must be a minimum of 25 feet away from any structure or property line. The site must also be a minimum of 15 feet from any other combustible materials, Jedrusik said.

> *The "open burn" must have constant supervision and must be completely extinguished before leaving the fire pit.*

Only clean wood can be used as fuel (no creosote, or other chemicals). Leaves and other unwanted combustibles are not allowed to be burned. When conducting an "open burn" in the approved manner, some form of extinguishment must be on hand. Examples would be a fire extinguisher, a garden hose, sand or dirt.

The "open burn" must have constant supervision and must be completely extinguished before leaving the fire pit. If smoke from the fire becomes a nuisance to others, immediate extinguishment is required by the city ordinance.

Air pollution created by open burning can irritate eyes and lungs, obscure visibility, create annoying odors, and pose other potential health risks. Embers that are able to escape the seat of the fire can quickly ignite nearby vegetation and/or neighboring structures, officials said.

"Emergency calls for this behavior will typically increase this time of year, however, it is vitally important that our emergency response resources remain available for true emergencies at this time," commented Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshall Kelly Eggers. "We are asking for the community's diligence pertaining to the ordinance and in assisting our efforts to provide the most efficient and effective service our citizen's deserve."

Failure to comply with the Westland City Ordinance is a misdemeanor offense and is punishable by up to 90 days in jail and/or a fine up to $500.

Officials reiterate safe water and sewer system practices

Westland officials have issued a warning to the public about the danger to the wastewater and storm water systems in the community during the current self-isolation order of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Officials said that with the majority of Westland residents at home in compliance with the Stay Home, Stay Safe order, it is crucial to keep wastewater flowing safely. Misuse of wastewater systems associated with COVID-19 has caused issues in Southeast Michigan and across the country, according to the prepared statement from the city.

To prevent backups in the system the following procedures should be followed. Flushable wipes, household disinfecting wipes, latex gloves, and other products all create blockages in household pipes and municipal sewer systems and should never be flushed down the toilet. Only toilet paper and human waste should be flushed. Dispose of feminine products, tissues, paper towels, "flushable" wipes, and other trash in the garbage and avoid flushing medications down the toilet or drain when another safe option is available.

Additionally, residents are reminded that fats, oils, and greases used when cooking can make food tasty, but they gum up wastewater systems.

Residents should fats, oils, and greases (FOG) into covered containers and cans, and dispose of them in the trash when full. Wipe down pots and pans with a paper towel to remove any remaining FOG. Scrape food and scraps into the trash when possible, officials suggested.

> *Now is also the time for diligence with regards to stormwater protection.*

In addition to these wastewater management concerns, now is also the time for diligence with regards to stormwater protection, according to the prepared statement from the city. It is estimated that 75 percent of pollution entering rivers, lakes and streams comes from stormwater.

Do not enter

This month, Wayne Department of Public Works employees used yellow caution tape to prevent the use of the playscapes in city parks. The play structures could easily harbor the coronavirus and infect children with COVID 19, state health officials said, and the climbing structures, swings and other features were taped off to protect children from the virus which can live on hard surfaces. According to the Wayne Facebook page, "We do not have the resources to sanitize the playscapes. For your own safety, please do not go on the playscapes." The city has posted signs, warning parents of the danger of the virus and explaining the closures." Photo by Sean Rhaesa

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All Area

Roads

FROM PAGE 1

will take place through Canton Township, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth and is expected to begin in the spring or fall of next year, depending on available funding. No cost estimates for the expanded project were announced.

Cross said that regular maintenance and repairs would take place as needed and would include pothole repairs or other issues. She noted that traffic volumes have decreased by more than 50 percent on all roadways in the area during the coronavirus pandemic.

Hospital

FROM PAGE 1

tal.

Employees at the hospital have also alleged to news media that Beaumont has been hoarding much needed personal protection equipment (PPE) at a warehouse. One employee told WXYZ Channel 7 that there were "pallets and pallets of medical supplies" in the warehouse.

Beaumont Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Wilson said the warehouse is used to supply other Beaumont facilities with the protection gear which has been in short supply across the country.

"We're moving supplies in and out, and its with gratitude that our supply chain has been able to get those supplies to keep our staff safe. We're not hoarding anything -- we're using supplies," Wilson said.

Employees also questioned the failure of Beaumont to offer the use of temporary morgue facilities constructed in the warehouse to other hospitals.

"It is in use for Beaumont as an overflow temporary morgue. We are not licensed as a morgue, we're not able to offer that service to others," Wilson said.

Wilson said Beaumont will remain on "standby" in preparation for a second surge of the coronavirus but will be reopened. "We're carefully watching that second curve but we are getting more and more comfortable that we will be reopening Wayne as an acute care hospital in the near future," Wilson said.

In a prepared statement, Beaumont suggested that patients who would normally seek emergency or trauma treatment including heart attacks, strokes, seizures or other serious injuries use the freestanding emergency center in Canton Township which is "open 24/7 to care for non-COVID-19-related medical emergencies." That facility is located at 7300 North Canton.

Dingell and Tlaib wrote to Fox again last Friday and expressed "deep concerns" they have heard from staff and community members that the closure of Beaumont Wayne would have a negative impact on the region.

"We write to follow up on our letter dated April 14, 2020 regarding the closure of Beaumont Wayne Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic," wrote Dingell and Tlaib. "Since that time, we have heard from numerous employees, families of patients, local elected officials, and other critical stakeholders expressing concerns about this decision and the impact it will have on communities."

The lawmakers followed up with a number of questions in an attempt to understand the Beaumont business plan for a number of hospitals. The lawmakers cited concerns that Beaumont is targeting union members for layoffs and elimination of those jobs.

The lawmakers asked if Beaumont employees were entitled to hazardous duty pay as well as other questions about the financial stability of Beaumont, Michigan's largest health care system.

Dangerous drive

A Michigan State Trooper and a 20-year-old female were transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries at about 6 a.m. last Saturday. The accident took place at M-14 near Sheldon Road in Plymouth Township when the female driver was unable to stop and crashed into the rear of the patrol car. The trooper was seated in the vehicle on the right shoulder of the road when the accident occurred. Officials said the heavy traffic and the number of people driving too fast for conditions at the morning hour required them to call additional troopers to the area to deal with 20 other vehicle accidents. In a separate incident, a 37-year-old Milford man was killed when his car crashed into a semi-truck parked on the shoulder of I-275 near Ann Arbor Road at about 2 a.m. Monday, April 20. Troopers said it appeared the hazard lights on tractor-trailer were activated when the car struck the trailer. The truck driver was not injured in the incident.

Meal assistance available for seniors

Michigan recently received additional federal funding to help provide meals to older adults as the state responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs enable Michigan residents 60 years and older to obtain meals through home delivery and pick-up services.

The need for these services has increased as measures to slow transmission of COVID-19 have left many family caregivers unable to assist older loved ones.

To abide by physical distancing of at least 6 feet, meal sites have also been temporarily closed, including the noon-time meal provided at Allen Terrace, the city-owned and operated senior resident community in Northville. Residents registered for the congregate program have been receiving food delivery that covers multiple meals during the week, through the program managed by Wayne County and a local Area Agency on Aging.

Seniors who need extra support at this time can now sign up for assistance, including meal delivery, delivery of non-perishable food items, and daily wellness-check calls, through the MDHHS coronavirus website.

Northville Senior Services, part of the Northville Parks and Recreation Department, also offers wellness checks conducted by local volunteers. To learn more, contact Joyce Drever at (248) 305-2851 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday or email her at jdrever@twp.northville.mi.us.

SMART further reduces bus service routes

SMART implemented further bus service reductions last week as a way to better match service on the road with the reduced demand in light of the Stay Home Stay Safe initiative.

Officials said that ridership is at 80 percent less than a typical weekday, which has prompted SMART officials to reduce service an additional 40 percent. Since SMART implemented the initial 30 percent reduction, ridership has leveled off and remains steady.

"To ensure SMART can maintain its commitment to provide essential trips during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are adjusting service due to a substantially lower demand and a desire to control and limit deployment of our drivers," said Robert Cramer, deputy general manager of SMART. "While transit workers aren't always acknowledged for the frontline roles in public emergencies, this crisis is demonstrating how important our service is for the public health and well-being in the region. Our drivers and supporting staff have been commendable throughout this on-going crisis."

> *This crisis is demonstrating how important our service is for the public health and well-being in the region.*

Service frequency is based on Sunday service hours, with the addition of commuter routes, according to a statement from SMART officials. SMART shuttles and Dial A Ride service will not operate.

To protect against overcrowding and promote social distancing for riders (maintaining a minimum of 6 feet between passengers whenever possible, SMART will place additional buses along the busiest corridors, at the ready, to join buses in service that are at or reaching a crowded passenger level.

SMART will continue free fare, rear-door boarding, and yellow chain separating drivers from passengers, mid-route cleaning and regular electrostatic spraying of all buses until the end of the emergency, officials said.

Updates on SMART service can be found at www.smartbus.org.

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